

Assisting Constituents in the 6th Congressional District

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Conservation Technical Assistance

Raritan Basin - Looking at Open Space and Stream Management

NRCS is providing substantial resources to the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Watershed Management Project in the Raritan Basin. Staff actively participate on the Open Space and Stream Management committees for the Lower Raritan sub-watershed, helping to establish goals and objectives as well as educating committee members on technical issues. Through both the local field office and the North Jersey Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) program, NRCS participates on the basin-wide Agricultural Committee. The committee is helping to educate the public on the best management practices already adopted by area farmers.

Monmouth Watershed Management Assistance

NRCS is assisting with the DEP Watershed Management Project in the Monmouth Watersheds area. NRCS staff attend subcommittee meetings as requested to provide technical resource information. Prior to the watershed management group's release to the public of a brochure on streamside buffers, NRCS provided substantial technical feedback.

"Watershed Ambassador" Assisting in the Upper Delaware

The North Jersey RC&D is providing office support for the AmeriCorps "Watershed Ambassador" assigned to Watershed Management Area 1, Upper Delaware. Throughout the state, AmeriCorps personnel are assisting the DEP Watershed Management Project in monitoring the rivers and watersheds of New Jersey through River Assessment Teams (RATs) and Biological Assessment Teams (BATs). The ambassadors also provide specific watershed education in their assigned regions. The ambassador for the Upper Delaware Watershed has been busy monitoring streams in the watershed. Presentations to environmental commissions, environmental organizations, Girl Scout groups, and elementary and secondary school classes are all part of this outreach effort.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention

Millstone River Watershed PL83-566 Project

Since January 2000, NRCS has been working with a locally-led Steering Committee to address various problems in the Millstone River Watershed. The committee is made up of representatives of five counties, four Soil Conservation Districts, NJ Water Supply Authority, DEP, FEMA, and numerous municipalities. The Steering Committee has identified several objectives that it hopes to address through the NRCS Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL83-566). These objectives include flood damage mitigation, water-based recreation development, water quality protection/improvement, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, and agricultural land preservation.

NRCS conducted interviews with local municipal officials and analyzed FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Claims data to develop a flood damage area prioritization map. The Millstone River Steering Committee used this information to prioritize the flood damage areas where further study is needed.

NRCS is gathering information on the impact of the watershed on water turbidity as it relates to additional costs incurred by drinking water suppliers that serve North Brunswick Township and the Central New Jersey vicinity. This information will be used to determine what type of cost-effective measures can be taken to reduce these problems.

NRCS is gathering information on water turbidity in the Millstone River Watershed. Specifically being addressed is its effect on additional costs incurred by drinking water suppliers that serve North Brunswick Township and the central New Jersey vicinity. This information will be used to determine what type of cost-effective measures can be taken to reduce these problems.

The committee anticipates completing the watershed plan by late 2002. Further information on the project is available at: http://www.raritanbasin.org/nrcs_millstone.htm.

Conservation Programs

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Two WHIP contracts were approved, both for development of outdoor classrooms at local schools. NRCS will provide technical assistance at St. Catherine's School in Spring Lake and the Avon Public School to install butterfly gardens to use in teaching basic biology, math, and other skills.

Soil Erosion and Stormwater Control Provided in Developing Areas

The NJ Conservation Partnership helps growing communities protect their soil resources from erosion. Through the State Soil Conservation Committee's erosion and sediment control regulatory program, the Soil Conservation Districts serving District 6 review and certify proposed development plans for soil erosion control before and after construction. They also review plans for stormwater control and issue permits. Local inspectors check compliance to ensure natural resource conservation on development sites.

For more information about these and other conservation issues in the 6th District, contact the Freehold SCD: (732) 446-2300 or NRCS Freehold Service Center: (732) 462-1079. State level contacts are the SSCC: (609) 292-5540; NJACD: (973) 398-2511; NRCS: (732) 246-1171.